Roland Tellis (*pro hac vice* to be filed) rtellis@baronbudd.com
Jonas P. Mann (NJ Bar No. 020372007)

jmann@baronbudd.com

BARON & BUDD, P.C.

15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1600

Encino, California 91436 Telephone: (818) 839-2333 Facsimile: (818) 986-9698

Raymond P. Boucher (*pro hac vice* to be filed) ray@boucher.la Brian Bush (*pro hac vice* to be filed) bush@boucher.la

BOUCHER LLP

21600 Oxnard Street, Suite 600 Woodland Hills, California 91367

Telephone: (818) 340-5400 Facsimile: (818) 340-5401

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

BRENDA GEIGER, RACHEL KOREN, LUCY PINDER, CARISSA ROSARIO, JESSA HINTON, and INA SCHNITZER,

Plaintiffs,

٧.

LODI CHARCOAL PIT, INC., d/b/a SATIN DOLLS,

Defendant.

Docket No.

#### **COMPLAINT FOR:**

- (1) Misappropriation of Likeness;
- (2) False Endorsement, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a);
- (3) False Endorsement, N.J.S.A. 56:4-1; and
- (4) Unfair Competition.

### **Jury Trial Demanded**

Plaintiffs Brenda Geiger, Rachel Koren, Lucy Pinder, Carissa Rosario, Jessa Hinton, and Ina Schnitzer ("Plaintiffs") set forth and allege as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION AND PARTIES**

### A. Plaintiffs

- 1. Plaintiff Brenda Geiger ("Geiger") is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident of New York.
- 2. Plaintiff Rachel Koren ("Koren") is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident California.
- 3. Plaintiff Lucy Pinder ("Pinder") is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident of the United Kingdom.
- 4. Plaintiff Carissa Rosario ("Rosario") is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident of California.
- 5. Plaintiff Jessa Hinton ("Hinton") is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident of California.
- 6. Plaintiff Ina Schnitzer is known professionally as Jordan Carver ("Carver"). Plaintiff Carver is, and at all times relevant to this action was, a professional model and actress, and a resident of California.

# B. <u>Defendant</u>

7. Upon information and belief, Lodi Charcoal Pit, Inc., ("Defendant") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey

with a principal place of business at 230 Route 17 South, Lodi, Bergen County, New Jersey.

- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant is now, and at all times mentioned herein was, the operator of the Satin Dolls ("Satin Dolls"), which is a strip club, located at 230 Route 17 South, Lodi, Bergen County, New Jersey.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant owns and/or operates various social media accounts, including Facebook
  (https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/) and Instagram
  (https://www.instagram.com/satindollsnj), through which it promotes, endorses, and markets its business, solicits customers, and advertises events for Satin Dolls.
- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant has, and at all times mentioned herein had, control over the contents of its social media accounts.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action under 28U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiffs allege violations of 15 U.S.C. §1125, et seq.,(Lanham Act).
- 12. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because the Defendant is located in this judicial district.

# FACTUAL BACKGROUND

13. Each Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a professional model and actress who earns a living by commercializing her identity, image, and

likeness for many business endeavors, including the advertisement and promotion of products and services through negotiated, arms-length transactions with reputable commercial brands and companies.

- 14. A model's reputation directly impacts the commercial value associated with the use of her image, likeness, or identity to promote a product or service. As such, she has the right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photograph, and likeness.
- 15. Each Plaintiff expended and continues to expend substantial effort, resources, and time in building her reputation in the modeling industry.
- 16. Each Plaintiff carefully considers the reputation, brand, and type of good or service advertised by any potential client prior to authorizing the use of her image or likeness.
- 17. Each Plaintiff's career in modeling and acting has substantial value derived from the goodwill and reputation each has built. Each Plaintiff commands substantial sums of money for the licensed commercial use of her image.
- 18. Defendant has brazenly and repeatedly, without consent, misappropriated Plaintiffs' images and likenesses for use in its advertising materials produced to market and promote its strip club.
- 19. Defendant's use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses was for Defendant's commercial benefit. The images were used to drive traffic to Defendant's strip club and increase revenue.

- 20. Defendant's use of Plaintiffs' images on Defendant's social media accounts falsely suggests Plaintiffs' sponsorship of, affiliation with, and participation in Defendant's business.
- 21. Defendant never sought or obtained permission to use any of the Plaintiffs' images and likenesses.
- 22. The Plaintiffs at no time gave Defendant permission to use their images to promote Satin Dolls' business, services, and/or company, or for any other purpose.
- 23. Defendant has never paid any of the Plaintiffs for its unauthorized use of their images or likenesses.
- 24. Plaintiffs, by FedEx on August 10, 2017, demanded that Defendant cease and desist use of their images and likenesses. Defendant did not respond.
- 25. Defendant's unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses is knowing, willful, and intentional.

# **PLAINTIFFS' ALLEGATIONS**

26. Plaintiffs re-state and re-allege paragraphs 1-25 above and incorporate the same by reference as though fully set forth herein.

### Plaintiff Brenda Geiger

- 27. Plaintiff Geiger is a professional model.
- 28. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Geiger

negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.

29.

30.

account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.234072386756942.1073741828. 229489747215206/245862165577964/?type=3&theater) began on November 6, 2013, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

Defendant's first use of Plaintiff Geiger's images on its Facebook

Defendant's second use of Plaintiff Geiger's images on its Facebook

- account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/pcb.458375737659938/45837564 7659947/?type=3&theater) began on January 16, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 31. Defendant's third use of Plaintiff Geiger's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/458375817659930/?type=3&theater) began on January 22, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 32. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Geiger to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 33. In the images used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing

the photographs with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Geiger.

- 34. Defendant's appropriation of the images of Plaintiff Geiger was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.
- 35. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Geiger's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the images to advertise and promote its club.
- 36. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Geiger for any use of her image and likeness.
- 37. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Geiger's images without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Geiger's images and identity in total disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- 38. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Geiger's images and likeness.
- 39. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Geiger's images and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 40. Plaintiff Geiger has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness,

resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

### Plaintiff Rachel Koren

- 41. Plaintiff Koren is a professional model.
- 42. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Koren negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.
- 43. Defendant's first use of Plaintiff Koren's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL:

https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/433585556805623/?type=3&theater) began on December 8, 2014, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

- 44. Defendant's second use of Plaintiff Koren's images on its Instagram account (accessible via the URL: https://www.instagram.com/p/\_Sk8J2QtJY/) began on December 8, 2014, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 45. Defendant's third use of Plaintiff Koren's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL:

https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830.
229489747215206/433585633472282/?type=3&theater) began on December 14,
2014, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

46.

47.

- Defendant's fourth use of Plaintiff Koren's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/598815440282633/?type=3&theater) began on December 3, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/602300016600842/?type=3&theater) began on December 14, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

Defendant's fifth use of Plaintiff Koren's images on its Facebook

- 48. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Koren to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 49. In the images used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing the photographs with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Koren.
- 50. Defendant's appropriation of the images of Plaintiff Koren was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.
- 51. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Koren's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the images to advertise and promote its club.

- 52. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Koren for any use of her image and likeness.
- 53. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Koren's images without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Koren's images and identity in total disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- 54. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Koren's images and likeness.
- 55. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Koren's images and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 56. Plaintiff Koren has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness, resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

# Plaintiff Lucy Pinder

- 57. Plaintiff Pinder is a professional model.
- 58. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Pinder

negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.

59. Defendant's use of Plaintiff Pinder's image on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL:

https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.234072386756942.1073741828.
229489747215206/256051221225725/?type=3&theater) began on December 9,
2013, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

- 60. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Pinder to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 61. In the image used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing the photograph with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Pinder.
- 62. Defendant's appropriation of the image of Plaintiff Pinder was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.
- 63. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Pinder's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the image to advertise and promote its club.
- 64. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Pinder for any use of her image and likeness.

- 65. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Pinder's image without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Pinder's image and identity in total disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- 66. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Pinder's image and likeness.
- 67. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Pinder's image and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 68. Plaintiff Pinder has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness, resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

# Plaintiff Carissa Rosario

- 69. Plaintiff Rosario is a professional model.
- 70. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Rosario negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.

Defendant's first use of Plaintiff Rosario's images on its Facebook

Defendant's second use of Plaintiff Rosario's images on its Facebook

71.

72.

- account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/519162058247972/?type=3&theater) began on May 8, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/519162141581297/?type=3&theater) began on May 13, 2015, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 73. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Rosario to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 74. In the images used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing the photographs with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Rosario.
- 75. Defendant's appropriation of the images of Plaintiff Rosario was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.
- 76. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Rosario's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the images to advertise and promote its club.

- 77. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Rosario for any use of her image and likeness.
- 78. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Rosario's images without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Rosario's images and identity in total disregard of her rights.
- 79. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Rosario's images and likeness.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Rosario's images and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 81. Plaintiff Rosario has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness, resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

# Plaintiff Jessa Hinton

- 82. Plaintiff Hinton is a professional model.
- 83. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Hinton

negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.

- 84. Defendant's first use of Plaintiff Hinton's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/622271104603733/?type=3&theater) began on February 5, 2016, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 85. Defendant's second use of Plaintiff Hinton's images on its Instagram account (accessible via the URL: https://twww.instagram.com/p/BBqbK-uQtlO/?taken-at=10512430&hl=en) began on February 5, 2016, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 86. Defendant's third use of Plaintiff Hinton's images on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL: https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/624784081019102/?type=3&theater) began on February 11, 2016, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.
- 87. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Hinton to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 88. In the images used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing

the photographs with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Hinton.

- 89. Defendant's appropriation of the images of Plaintiff Hinton was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.
- 90. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Hinton's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the images to advertise and promote its club.
- 91. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Hinton for any use of her image and likeness.
- 92. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Hinton's images without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Hinton's images and identity in total disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- 93. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Hinton's images and likeness.
- 94. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Hinton's images and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 95. Plaintiff Hinton has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness,

resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

### Plaintiff Jordan Carver

- 96. Plaintiff Carver is a professional model.
- 97. In all prior instances of authorized commercial marketing and promotion of her image, likeness, or identity by third parties, Plaintiff Carver negotiated and expressly granted authority for such use pursuant to agreed upon terms and conditions and for agreed upon compensation.
- 98. Defendant's use of Plaintiff Carver's image on its Facebook account (accessible via the URL:

https://www.facebook.com/SatinDollsNJ/photos/a.264290937068420.1073741830. 229489747215206/289124784585035/?type=3&theater) began on March 3, 2014, is unauthorized, and for a commercial purpose.

- 99. Defendant has never hired or contracted with Plaintiff Carver to advertise, promote, market, or endorse Defendant's business.
- 100. In the image used by the Defendant to promote its business and advertise upcoming events, Plaintiff is readily identifiable in that any person seeing the photograph with the naked eye can reasonably determine that the person depicted is Plaintiff Carver.
- 101. Defendant's appropriation of the image of Plaintiff Carver was for the purpose of advertising or soliciting patronage of the Defendant's establishment.

- 102. Defendant has never sought Plaintiff Carver's permission, nor did Plaintiff give Defendant permission to use the image to advertise and promote its club.
- 103. Defendant has never compensated Plaintiff Carver for any use of her image or likeness.
- 104. Defendant had actual knowledge that it was using Plaintiff Carver's image without compensation or consent. Accordingly, Defendant knowingly misappropriated Plaintiff Carver's image and identity in total disregard of Plaintiff's rights.
- 105. Defendant derived a direct commercial benefit from its unauthorized use of Plaintiff Carver's image and likeness.
- 106. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized usage of Plaintiff Carver's image and likeness, Defendant made profits or gross revenues in an amount to be established at trial.
- 107. Plaintiff Carver has further been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unauthorized use, as she has lost her exclusive right to control the commercial exploitation of her name, photographs, and likeness, resulting in damages, the total amount of which will be established by proof at trial.

### **COUNT I**

# **Misappropriation of Likeness**

- 108. Plaintiffs re-state and re-allege paragraphs 1 through 107 above and incorporate the same by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 109. Plaintiffs have a right to control the commercial use of their names, images, and likenesses. Under New Jersey law, the unauthorized use of a person's image or likeness for a predominately commercial purpose is unlawful.
- 110. Defendant's use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses to advertise its strip club business constitutes a use for commercial purposes.
- 111. Defendant's use of Plaintiffs' photographs and likenesses did not occur in connection with the dissemination of news or information and was without a redeeming public interest or historical value.
- 112. Defendant never obtained Plaintiffs' consent for the use of their images and likenesses.
- 113. Defendant's use of each Plaintiff's photographs and likenesses was willful and deliberate.
- 114. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's scheme to create the false impression that Plaintiffs were affiliated with and/or performed at Defendant's strip club, Defendant enjoyed increased revenues and profits.
- 115. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendant's deliberate and willful conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages in an amount to be established at trial.

# **COUNT II**

### **Unfair Competition / False Endorsement**

### **Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §1125(a)**

- 116. Plaintiffs re-state and re-allege paragraphs 1 through 115 above and incorporate the same by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 117. Plaintiffs, through their careers in modeling, advertising, and acting have all attained fame and celebrity.
- 118. Each Plaintiff enjoys a substantial social media following and has appeared in numerous publications, television, and/or films.
- 119. Each Plaintiff earns her living by commercializing her identity for use by reputable brands and services through arms-length negotiated transactions.
- 120. Each Plaintiff possesses a valid and protectable mark in the form of her persona, image, likeness, and identity.
- 121. Each Plaintiff has, and at all times mentioned herein, possessed, maintained, and safeguarded her exclusive right to control the use of her persona, image, likeness, and identity.
- 122. Prior to authorizing the use of her image, likeness, or identity, each Plaintiff carefully considers the reputation of the potential client and the good or service being promoted.
- 123. Without consent, Defendant placed Plaintiffs' images and likenesses on advertisements promoting its strip club business.

- 124. In Defendant's advertisements that contain Plaintiffs' images and likenesses, Plaintiffs are clearly depicted and readily identifiable.
- 125. Defendant misappropriated Plaintiffs' images and likenesses in order to create the false impression that Plaintiffs are somehow affiliated with, have endorsed, or otherwise participate in Defendant's strip club business.
- 126. Defendant never sought Plaintiffs' consent to use their images or likenesses.
- 127. Plaintiffs have never been employed by, danced at, or affiliated themselves in any way with Defendant's strip club.
- 128. Plaintiffs would not agree to allow their image or likeness to be used to promote Defendant's strip club business.
- 129. Defendant, at all times mentioned herein, knew or should have known that it had no right to use Plaintiffs' images or likenesses to promote its strip club business.
- 130. Defendant intended to create the false impression that Plaintiffs performed at or otherwise endorsed Defendant's business.
- 131. Defendant placed the misappropriated images on the very same marketing channels (including Facebook and Instagram) used by Plaintiffs to promote themselves.

- 132. Defendant's misappropriation of Plaintiffs' images is likely to cause confusion as to Plaintiffs' affiliation with, sponsorship of, and/or participation in Defendant's strip club business.
- 133. Upon information and belief, Defendant's misappropriation has caused actual confusion among consumers as to Plaintiffs' affiliation with, endorsement of, and participation in Defendant's strip club business.
- 134. Defendant knew or should have known that, obtaining the right to use their images and likenesses would have required consent and substantial compensation.
- 135. Defendant's repeated and brazen unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses, without seeking their consent, constitutes willful and deliberate conduct.
- 136. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's scheme to create the false impression that Plaintiffs were affiliated with and/or performed at Defendant's strip club, Defendant enjoyed increased revenues and profits.
- 137. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendant's deliberate and willful conduct, Plaintiffs suffered actual damages in an amount to be established at trial.

### **COUNT III**

**Unfair Competition / False Endorsement** 

N.J.S.A. 56:4-1, et seq.

- 138. Plaintiffs re-state and re-allege paragraphs 1 through 137 above and incorporate the same by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 139. Defendant's unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses in connection with creating the false impression that they were affiliated with and endorsed Defendant's business constitutes unfair competition under N.J.S.A. 56:4-1.
- 140. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's scheme to create the false impression that Plaintiffs were affiliated with and/or performed at Defendant's strip club, Defendant enjoyed increased revenues and profits.
- 141. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendant's deliberate and willful conduct, Plaintiffs suffered actual damages in an amount to be established at trial.
- 142. Defendant's wrongful and deliberate conduct has caused significant damage to Plaintiffs, both directly and indirectly, and Plaintiffs request treble damages as authorized by N.J.S.A. 56:4-2.

### **COUNT IV**

# **Common Law Unfair Competition**

- 143. Plaintiffs re-state and re-allege paragraphs 1 through 142 above and incorporate the same by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 144. Defendant's unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' images and likenesses in connection with creating the false impression that they were affiliated with and

endorsed Defendant's business constitutes unfair competition under the common law of New Jersey.

- 145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's scheme to create the false impression that Plaintiffs were affiliated with and/or performed at Defendant's strip club, Defendant enjoyed increased revenues and profits.
- 146. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendant's deliberate and willful conduct, Plaintiffs suffered actual damages in an amount to be established at trial.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs respectfully pray for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- 1. For actual, consequential, and incidental damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
- 2. For the amount due, owing and unpaid to Plaintiffs representing the fair market value of their services;
- 3. For trebling of damages;
- 4. For punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
- 5. For prejudgment interest in an amount proscribed by law;
- 6. For disgorgement of Defendant's profits;
- 7. For costs of this lawsuit including reasonable attorney's fees; and

8. For such other and further relief as to this court seem just, proper and equitable.

### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury as to all issues in the above matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 31, 2017 BARON & BUDD, P.C.

s/ Jonas P. Mann

Jonas P. Mann jmann@baronbudd.com

Roland Tellis rtellis@baronbudd.com **BARON & BUDD, P.C.** 

15910 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 1600

Encino, California 91436 Telephone: (818) 839-2333 Facsimile: (818) 986-9698

Raymond P. Boucher ray@boucher.la
BOUCHER LLP

21600 Oxnard Street, Suite 600 Woodland Hills, California 91367

Telephone: (818) 340-5400 Facsimile: (818) 340-5401